GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b) During the period 1982-83 to 1990-91, a total outlay of Rs. 764.53 crores has been made available for the Deptt. of Non-Conventional Energy Sources. The annual break-up of this outlay has been indicated in the Statement. (*see* below)

(c) No difficulty is being faced by the Government in achieving the national targets fixed annually for setting up of biogas plants.

(d) The National Project for Biogas Development (NPBD) which caters to family type biogas plants, provides for *inter-alia* central subsidy to beneficiaries for setting up of biogas plants; turn-key job fees @ Rs. 300/- per plant to corporate bodies, registered societies and private entrepreneurs; and promotional incentives @ Rs. 30/- per plant to village level functionaries. The NPBD envisages a multi agency approach and the services of the private sector including voluntary agencies are utilised for construction of biogas plants on turn-key basis and also for organisation of various kinds of training courses for staff functionaries, masons and users which help in creating mass awareness about the multiple benefits of the biogas programme. Besides fiscal incentives in the form of excise duty-exemptions are available on biogas burners manufactured according to ISI specifications.

Statement

Sl.No.	Year	Outlay (in crores of Rs.)
1	1982-83	21.80
2	1983-84	25.64
3	1984-85	81.71
4	1985-86	90.00
5	1986-87	100.00
6	1987-88	100.00
7	1988-89	105.00
8	1989-90	115.00
9	1990-91	125.38
		764.53 crores

OPEC decision to curtail Oil Production

2029. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM:

Will the Minister of PERTROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that OPEC is cutting back production due to weak market for crude in the Gulf;

(b) if so, what advantage Government have taken of the soft oil market;

(c) whether there is any possibility of passing on the benefits of soft oil prices to consumers in the country; and

(d) if not what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Crude oil is imported under term contracts with the National Oil Companies of various oil producing countries and on spot purchase. Both under term contract as well as spot purchases, the prices are market related and therefore benefit of lower international prices has accrued for the purchases made during this period. However, the quantity of crude oil that can be purchased during a period is determined on the basis of inventory holding capacity in the country and the gap between the refining capacity and indigenous crude oil production.

(c) and (d) the prices of petroleum products in the country are revised and fixed by the Government from time to time. Administered prices are fixed on several considerations such as conservation of petroleum products, need for generating internal resources, subsidising products of mass consumption like LPG, SKO etc.